

Giddings Office
Jefferson
Ashtabula County
Ohio

HABS
OHIO
4-JEP
2-

Joshua Giddings Office
Jefferson, Ohio

HABS No. O-268

OHIO
4 - JEF
2 -

The structure known as the Giddings Law Office, small frame, two-room building 16 x 28, was occupied jointly by B. F. Wade and Joshua R. Giddings and was built by Mr. Giddings in 1823.

It stands in an excellent state of preservation on its original site on the east side of Chestnut Street near the corner of Walnut Street in Jefferson, Ohio. The design is in excellent proportion and the cornice and doorway are characterized by the great delicacy of the mouldings.

It is still owned by the Giddings family and contains the original desks, chairs and book cases. It also houses an old iron safe, the first ever bought into Ashtabula County and a great number of volumes of his library, principally records of the proceedings of the House and Senate for the years during which Mr. Giddings was a member of Congress.

Joshua Reed Giddings was born in Athens, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and at eleven years of age came to Ashtabula County with his parents. In 1838 he was elected as a Whig to Congress, but soon became prominent as an advocate of the right of petition and the abolition of slavery and the domestic slave trade.

For twenty years he held his seat in Congress. He declined re-election from ill health in 1858. In 1861 he accepted a Consul-Generalship to Canada under Lincoln, and while serving in that capacity at Montreal, he died May 27, 1864.

Historic American Buildings Survey
William A. Bohnard, District Officer
9815 Newton Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

Joshua Giddings Office
Jefferson, Ohio

HABS No. O-268

HABS
OHIO

4 - JEF

2 -

Owner (or Custodian) Giddings family (Grandson)

Date of Erection Built in 1823

Architect

Builder Mr. Giddings

Present Condition In fair condition

Number of Stories One story

Materials of Construction Frame building

Other Existing records: Two drawings
Six photographs
One page of history

Additional Data: Historically valuable, being the
office of Congressman Joshua Giddings
and Senator Wade. Giddings drafted the
original platform of the Republican
Party in his office.